

Message Text

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ORIGIN AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 FEA-02 FPC-01 SS-20

OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

DRC-01 /144 R

66613

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T STATE 010739

FOR G.F. HELFRICH, AEC SCI REP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE INTEREST IN HTGR

REF: TOKYO 0223

1. DURING MEETING WITH MR. MATSUMOTO AND OTHER REPS OF ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (EPDC) AT USAEC HEADQUARTERS ON OCTOBER 2, 1973, USAEC STAFF ADVISED MATSUMOTO THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET DECIDED ON FORMAL POLICY COVERING SUPPLY OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM FOR USE IN HTGRS, BUT WE COULD FORESEE NO INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS FOR JAPAN IN THIS REGARD. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF EPDC'S PLANS, IT WAS AGREED THAT USAEC STAFF WOULD BRING EPDC'S REQUEST TO USAEC MANAGEMENT ATTENTION, AFTER WHICH MR. MATSUMOTO COULD EXPECT RECEIVE RESPONSE TO HIS

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OCTOBER 1 LETTER. USAEC STAFF DID NOT REPEAT NOT ADVISE

MATSUMOTO THAT THEY WOULD BEGIN PREPARING MODIFIED CONTRACT COVERING HTGR AFTER COMPLETION OF THOSE CONTRACTS REQUIRING SIGNATURE PRIOR END OF DECEMBER 1973. RATHER, USAEC STAFF ADVISED MATSUMOTO THAT IT WAS NOT LIKELY TIME WOULD PERMIT ANY SUBSTANTIVE WORK ON SUCH MATTER AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER END OF 1973, DUE TO CONTRACTING WORK-LOAD WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO CONSUME FULL TIME OF CONCERNED AEC STAFF AND MANAGEMENT UNTIL INITIAL PHASE OF TRANSITION PERIOD COMPLETED.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO OCTOBER 2 MEETING WITH EPDC REPS, REPORTS REACHED USAEC OF APPARENT GOJ UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER EPDC OR JAPC WOULD BE AUTHORIZED CONSTRUCT HTGR IN JAPAN. AS A RESULT THIS UNCERTAINTY, USAEC STAFF DETERMINED THAT ACTION RE RESPONSE TO EPDC LETTER INQUIRY OF OCTOBER 1 SHOULD BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON DEFINITE JAPANESE PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SPECIFIC HTGR.

3. ABOVE POSITIONS TAKEN IN LIGHT NSC DECISION ON U.S. POLICY ON TRANSFER OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM FOR FUELING POWER REACTORS WHICH IN BRIEF, CONTAINS FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS:

A. U.S. WILL REVIEW SUPPLY REQUESTS FOR LARGE QUANTITIES HIGHLY ENRICHED U ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

B. ACCEPTABLE PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES WOULD BE REQUIRED OF RECIPIENT OF HIGHLY ENRICHED U.

C. POSITION OF RECIPIENT'S GOVERNMENT RE NPT WOULD BE WEIGHED BY U.S. IN REVIEWING SUPPLY REQUESTS.

D. THE LOCATION AND/OR OWNERSHIP OF FUEL FABRICATION AND REPROCESSING FACILITIES INVOLVED WILL BE CONSIDERED IN REVIEWING SUPPLY REQUESTS.

NSC UNDER SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE NOW IN PROCESS DEVELOPING ACTION PROGRAM IMPLEMENTING ABOVE. PENDING COMPLETION SUCH ACTION PROGRAM, EMBASSY REQUESTED REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING DETAILS ABOVE WITH JAPANESE, EXCEPT TO REITERATE PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED AEC STAFF COMMENT TO VARIOUS JAPANESE INQUIRIES TO EFFECT THAT REVIEW OF REQUESTS FOR SUPPLY OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF HIGHLY ENRICHED

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URANIUM WILL BE MADE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, BUT WITH LIKELIHOOD THAT SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT PERMITTING EXPORT CAN BE DEVELOPED WITH JAPAN.

4. FINALLY, IT SUGGESTED THAT SCI REP ADVISE EPDC THAT IN VIEW OF APPARENT UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHICH ORGANIZATION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HTGR IN JAPAN, USAEC FEELS CONSTRAINED AWAIT RECEIPT OF FORMAL REQUEST FOR ENRICHING CONTRACT COVERING SPECIFIC

HTGR PROJECT, FULLY SUPPORTED BY GOJ, BEFORE INITIATING USAEC
MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF PROJECT AND DRAFTING APPROPRIATE CONTRACT
MODIFICATIONS. IN THE INTERIM, SCI REP REQUESTED ATTEMPT OBTAIN
INFORMATION ON LOW-KEY BASIS ON LIKELIHOOD ANY HTGR PROJECT
THAT MAY BE AUTHORIZED BY GOJ COULD BE CONSTRUCTED IN SUFFICIENT
TIME TO JUSTIFY EPDC STATEMENT THAT INITIAL DELIVERIES FOR
FIRST CORE WOULD BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1982. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, SUPPLIES, NUCLEAR ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TRANSFER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE010739
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: USAEC: DHCOOPER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740134/aaaabfxr.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AEC
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 0223
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE INTEREST IN HTGR
TAGS: TECH, JA, US, AEC
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005